Describe and analyze the impact after increasing the BUD of methadone oral solutions as well as the overall satisfaction in the Methadone Maintenance Program Drug Addicts Attention Centers (CAID) in our city, in which methadone compounding, distribution and dispensing is centralized in our Hospital Pharmacy Department.

We studied the physicochemical and microbiological stability of two methadone oral solutions 10 mg/mL. We demonstrated they were stable at 5 ± 3°C, 25 ± 2°C, and 40 ± 2°C for 91 days so that we increased the beyond use date (BUD) from 30 to 91 days.

We designed a survey asking if the BUD increase had allowed improvements in different questions (1-8):

6 possible Likert-scale answers:

✓ 0 = “no improvement”
✓ 5=“very-significant improvement”

1) Day-to-day organization.
2) Vacation organization.
3) Human Resources distribution.
4) Dosing/dispensing methadone time reduction.
5) Other benefits not included in the survey.
6) Patient visits to the center reduction (yes/no).
7) Other benefits in dispensing (yes/no).
8) Overall satisfaction (1 = “not at all satisfied” and 5 = “very satisfied”).

The first 7 questions included a free field to justify their score.

RESULTS

The increased stability of methadone oral solutions has meant a high satisfaction degree in the CAID, highlighting an improvement in the daily organization and in festive periods; in relation to better planning/forecasting of shifts and internal activities; as well as a greater doses dispensing to patients whose clinical situation allowed it, reducing the number of visits to the center.

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

One year after this implementation

A survey was designed asking if the BUD increase had allowed improvements in different questions (1-8):

The increased stability of methadone oral solutions has meant a high satisfaction degree in the CAID, highlighting an improvement in the daily organization and in festive periods; in relation to better planning/forecasting of shifts and internal activities; as well as a greater doses dispensing to patients whose clinical situation allowed it, reducing the number of visits to the center.